

## Exodus Ch. 1

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- Exodus is a story or portrayal of redemption, which is the theme of the book overall.
- Exodus = Greek word; “Way out” – the way out, pathway. (John 14:6)
- Hebrew name = “These are the names” – shortened in Hebrew to “Shumote” / “elleh shemoth”

**Hosea 11:1** “When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”

- When the nation of Israel was young – God says “I loved them, and called them out of Egypt.”
- While this book describes the suffering and yoke of bondage, and is all about deliverance and redemption – the real story is one of love, God’s love for His people.

**Matthew 2:13-15** <sup>13</sup>And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek to destroy Him. <sup>14</sup>When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt. <sup>15</sup>And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, out of Egypt have I called my Son.”

- This is a dual fulfillment of the prophecy of Hosea – which in it’s second meaning is a Messianic prophecy.
- As we study through the book of Exodus, knowing that it is about redemption and deliverance – we know that we can’t have these things, they are impossible apart from our Lord Jesus!
- The first five books of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are referred to as the Pentateuch. Greek, compound word: “pente” = 5 & “teuchos” = scroll / book. Hebrew: Torah = Law.
- Moses collected and edited the histories that comprise the book of Genesis.
- Here in Exodus Moses begins briefly with the things just prior to his birth, then quickly moves into those things to which he is an eye witness.
- There are those who dispute the authorship of Moses, having various false theories, attacking the reliability of scripture in the process.

Jesus says:

**Mark 7:10** “For Moses said, honour thy father and thy mother; and, whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death.” (**Exodus 20:12 & 21:17**)

**Mark 12:24-27** “<sup>24</sup>And Jesus answering said unto them, do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? <sup>25</sup>For when they shall rise from dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven. <sup>26</sup>And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? <sup>27</sup>He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.” (**Exodus 3:6**)

**Luke 2:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>And when the days of her purification according to the Law of Moses were accomplished, they brought Him to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord; <sup>23</sup>As it is written in the Law of the Lord, every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord.”

- Notice that the Law of Moses = the Law of the Lord.
  - Jesus affirmed that Moses was the one that wrote the book of Exodus, quoting from Exodus calling it “the book of Moses”.
  - Jesus said it, and that’s good enough for me – Moses wrote the book of Exodus.
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- Time period: 1800 – 1400 BC. Based on **1 Kings 6:1** we can set the actual year of the Exodus from Egypt.

**1 Kings 6:1** “And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month Zif,…”

- Solomon began his reign after King David in 962 BC. Back up 4 years + 480 years. 966 + 480 = 1446 BC is about the time of the Exodus.
- Moses was in the wilderness 40 years, and he was 40 years old when this starts, so we end up at approximately 1526 BC where this story picks up.

In 1871 an Arab discovered, in a rocky inaccessible cliff, near Thebes, a tomb filled with the treasure and the coffins of 40 of the mummies of the kings and queens of Egypt. He kept his secret for 10 years, selling the treasure to tourists.

When the treasures of the greatest of the ancient kings began to appear in circulation, the Cairo Museum authorities went to Thebes to investigate. They found the Arab and made him reveal the place. The mummies were not in their original tombs. They had been removed ages before to a secret hiding place on account of the early appearance of professional tomb robbers.

These mummies were then removed to Cairo. Today you can go to the Cairo museum and visit the hall of the Pharaoh's, they are all lined up according to their dynasties, in order of their reigns. There is one empty coffin on display for a Pharaoh whom they have not been able to locate, but they have all the rest.

The missing Pharaoh correlates to the time period of the Exodus, around 1446 BC. If it were possible they could check the bottom of the Red Sea.

- This chapter is divided into two sections: Verses 1-10 describe the background, verse 11-22 describe the bondage.

V: 1-4 “*Now*” – “and”.

- Exodus is not a stand alone book, it builds upon the information presented in Genesis, it is a continuation of the same story.
- These verses repeat information from Genesis – which connects the two books, in facts that is how the first five books are connected in the same way.
- The tribes of Israel, 11 of the 12 sons of Jacob listed again in random order.

Why are the children of Israel in Egypt – this is not the Promised Land:

1. God is preparing the people for the promise land.
2. God is preparing the Promised Land for the people.
3. This is the fulfillment of God's word.

**Genesis 15:13-16** “<sup>13</sup>And He said unto Abram, know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; <sup>14</sup>And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. <sup>15</sup>And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup>But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”

- As God delivers Israel from Egypt, he also will deliver the Amorites and the inhabitants of Canaan from their sin, mercifully putting them out of their misery. (Rabid dog)

V: 6 Joseph, his brethren, and all that generation are gone.

- It has been about 300 years since the death of Joseph, so we have this 300 year gap between the two books, between Genesis and Exodus.

V: 7 This is the fruition of God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – literally.

**Genesis 12:2** “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:”

**Genesis 13:16** “And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.”

- The children of Israel were later numbered at 600,000 men over the age of 20, (Numbers 1:46) which means that their total population when you factor in women and children could have been somewhere around 3,000,000 people.
- God’s word brought to fruition.

As Joshua drew near to the end of his life:

**Joshua 21:45** “There failed not aught / Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.”

V: 8 There was at one time a “Northern” and “Southern” Egypt’s, rival dynasties.

- It is thought that Joseph reigned just before the Hyksos dynasties who came into power around 1500 BC, who wouldn’t have had much regard for Joseph or his family anyway, let alone that now there is that 300 year gap in time.
- The word “**arose**” (H6965). quwm, koom al, to “rise against” – meaning it was not a peaceful transition; it was a military take over or victory. (Deut. 19:11, 28:7).
- These Hyksos rulers were known through archeology to be “The shepherd kings”; interestingly enough archeology also proves that they were descendants of the Amorites, a people with a deep seated animosity to the nation of Israel, and an ax to grind. (Shechem / Horites / Hivites descended from Amorites)
- It is notable that just after the Hyksos take over, the situation for the Hebrews changes dramatically.

V: 9 Not only are they being fruitful and multiplying abundantly but: vv7: “exceeding mighty”.

- Pharaoh’s assessment: “*more and mightier than we:*”
- This is about power; whether economic, political, or military.

V: 10 Dealing wisely, shrewdly or cunningly.

- This action is based on fear – never a good basis for a decision.

**2 Timothy 1:7** “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

- They are afraid of two things:

1. That the Hebrews who now outnumber the Egyptians will either side with their enemies and fight against them.
2. They will leave. The Hebrews having become an economic asset that they aren't willing to do without. – Free labor.

- Egypt has never been so blessed in all of its history as when Israel was there.
- They were the ruling power, the greatest nation at that time, but after Israel left and since then they've been a 3<sup>rd</sup> rate power throughout history.

V: 11 Pithom = “mansion / estate of Autum (pagan deity); Raamses = Sun god, prior to Pharaoh's being so named.

- They've gone from being guests in the land, shepherds of their flocks and of Pharaoh's to being forced labor with “task masters” appointed over them.
- The task master's job was to “afflict” the Hebrews.

Afflict: (H6031) 'anah, aw-naw'; afflict, humble, force, trouble, weaken, oppress; used to describe the rape of a woman.

- Their intent wasn't just to control them, but to break them.

V: 12 The more they are afflicted, the more they multiply.

- This hard bondage, the affliction, later the infanticide has all the same earmarks as other future attempts to destroy the Jews.
- The same Satanic author was behind Haman who sought to destroy the Jews in the book of Esther.
- Satan was behind Herod when he also destroyed the Jewish boys in Bethlehem.
- Hitler was motivated by Satan, just as the president of Iran is today

V: 13 The children of Israel were made to serve with “rigor”.

“Rigour” (H6531). “perek”, peh'-rek; to break apart; fracture, severity; without mercy, cruelty, to crush or break into pieces.

Later Moses comments:

**Deuteronomy 4:20** “But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.”

- The time spent in Egypt was a time of growth, and a time of refining in the furnace.

**Genesis 50:20** “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass as it is this day, to save much people alive.”

**Romans 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

V: 14 Helps to define what is meant by “rigour”.

- Made their live “bitter” – with “hard” / heavy “bondage”.
- Bondage is the forced service of a captive or a slave.
- There are records, engraved onto various Egyptian monuments portraying Egyptian slaves, Hebrew slaves who are laying bricks – with Egyptian task masters standing over them with rod’s and whips ready to strike if they slow down, portraying the rigour with which they were ruled, portraying the bondage of that time period.
- This is in part what the nation of Israel will be delivered from and is a model of what Jesus came to free us from.

**Matthew 11:28-30** <sup>28</sup>Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

V: 15-16 The king of Egypt: Pharaoh.

- The two Hebrew mid-wives: Shiphrah: “fair” / Puah: “splendid” (Semitic names).
- Pharaoh’s command was to destroy the Hebrew boys.
- The power behind Pharaoh is the same yesterday and today.
- Egypt represents the world, and Pharaoh the king of the world; to this day the king of this world says the same thing, kill the children.
- It’s packaged differently today, marketed is a better term – they call it “choice”, but in reality it was murder then and it is murder now – the author is the same.

Jesus described Satan:

**John 8:44** “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a like, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

V: 17 *“But the mid-wives feared God...”* – The basis of their decision.

- “but” shows contrast between Pharaoh who gave no thought to God as opposed to the midwives who’s first thought was about God.

**Psalm 27:1** “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid.”

- Civil disobedience – in obedience to God.

**Matthew 10:28** “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Being commanded not to teach in the name of Jesus:

**Acts 5:29** “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men.”

- The injunction is clear. Yes, we are to submit to those in authority over us, realizing it is God who placed them in their position.
- But when their commands clearly violate or contradict the Word of God, then like Peter and John, we are to obey God rather than man.

V: 18 The mid-wives are called on the carpet by Pharaoh.

V: 19-20 This may be an outright lie, it may be a so called “half-truth”, or it could be true.

- The Hebrew women were more than likely not like the Egyptian women.
- The Hebrew women probably were of a heartier sort.
- They may well have delivered their children before the mid-wives arrived – having been forewarned of their orders.
- God deals well with the mid-wives, because of their “fear” – because of their faith.
- God focused on their faith, not on their short comings.
- Again the people multiply and become stronger.

V: 21 *“Because the midwives feared God – **He** made them houses...”*

- Excellent example of “cause & effect.”
- God establishes houses, families for each of these women.

**1 Samuel 2:30** “Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before Me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from Me; for them that honour Me I will honour, and they that despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.”

- This portion of scripture is a commentary on the sanctity of human life,

V: 22 Pharaoh by-passes the mid-wives and orders all the Hebrews that whenever a male child is born he is to be cast into the river.

- In a sense “sacrificed” to the Nile god.

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- This is a hard picture, difficult circumstances. How could they endure? They hoped in God’s word.
  - Norwegian wharf rat study:
  - How do we hang on, how do we endure? God’s word!

**1 Corinthians 10:13** “There hath no temptation / trial taken you but such as is common to man: but God who is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape (Exodus), that ye may be able to bear it.”